appreciated that the PDS plays an important role in keeping price rise in check and reaching subsidised essential commodities even to rural areas, and to specially vulnerable groups in ITDP areas. The specially useful rule of PDS during times of drought and other natural calamities also cannot be ignored.

Rs. Assistance from State Governments and the public for Financing Railway projects

1325. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to get assistance from the State Governments and the Public for financing railway projects in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether State Government agencies like State Industrial Development Corporations have jointly executed projects like in Maharashtra, if so, whether the same pattern is proposed to be adopted in other States also; and

(c) by when the details of the scheme would be finalised and implemented and whether State Governments would be asked to submit their priority projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Assistance for financing Railway projects from State Government and Public is considered only on initiative of the State Government in very selected cases after the scheme is got approved by them from the Union Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission. However, in case of new Konkan Railway line project, the four concerned State Governments are likely to contribute funds.

(c) City Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) an agency of the State Government of Maharashtra is sharing 67 per cent cost of Mankhurd-Belapur new rail line project. It is upto State Governments to decide whether to adopt this pattern for sharing cost of such railway projects in their States.

Priority to Konkan coastal railway and projects in the Border areas of Kutch in Gujarat

1326. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to accord priority to Konkan Coastal railway and projects in the border areas of Kutch in Gujarat as stated by the Minister and reported by the Press in Ahmedabad during his election campaign;

(b) whether conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj railway line from meter gauge to broad gauge is under Government's consideration to provide direct link to Kutch district; and

(c) whether the Defence Ministry has submitted a proposal to link Kutch district with the rest of the country in view of its strategic position, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Priority is proposed to be given only to West Coastal railway project between Roha and Mangalore.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Complaints of corruption against Railway staff

1327. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of complaints of corruption received against Railway staff during the last three years and what is the number of gazetted and non-gazetted staff against whom action has been taken, year-wise;

(b) whether a campaign is being launched to cleanse the Railways of the corrupt and the inefficient; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is number of officers in high positions who have been working at their present places for more than five years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) During the years 1987, 1988 and 1989, 9075, 9431 and 9316 complaints were received respectively. In addition, Railways conducted preventive checks, on their own, to nab officials indulging in malpractices and corruption. As a result of investigation of complaints and preventive checks, the number of Gazetted and non-Gazetted officials proceeded against and punished is given below:

Year	Number of officials proceeded against in disciplinary action		Number of officials punished as a result of disciplinary action	
	Gazetted	Non-Gazetted	Gazetted	Non-Gazetted
1987	175	6285	111	5111
1988	223	9104	156	6574
1989	174	10557	177	6919

(b) Yes, Sir. The salient features of the proposed action are given below:

(i) Further intensification of vigilance/anti-corruption work in mass contact areas. such as booking, reservation, parcel/luggage, goods and catering, as also where public funds can be misused/wasted, e.g. tenders and contracts, and in recruitments and selection where malpractices could damage Railway's performance greatly.

(ii) Education of Supervisors and officers (and all newly recruited officers and staff) on a massive seals so as to make them conscious of their role and responsibility in preventing malpractices including those on the part of their subordinates and inculcating in them a sense of integrity, efficiency and public service.

(iii) Identification of corruption-prone areas and persons of doubtful integrity and keeping a watch on them. Imposition of deterrent punishment in proven cases of corruption.

(iv) Insisting on integrity and efficiency in promotions-especially to important and high positions.

(v) Premature retirement of inefficient officers and staff or those of doubtful integrity.

(c) No Group 'A' Railway Officer in high position—Additional Secretary's level and above—is working in his present post for more than five years.

Construction of three star and Janata hotel in Delhi

1328. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that only owners of 5-star hotels or those who have collaboration with owners of 5-star hotels are eligible to bid for hotel sites in Delhi being auctioned by Delhi Development Authority;

(b) what are the reasons for this precondition; and

(c) why no priority is being given to three-star hotels and Janata hotels which is the prime need for Delhi to attract middle class tourists?